



From: Frank Krause, FASEB Executive Director and CEO

To: FASEB Member Society Executive Officers

Re: FASEB DataWorks! - Fostering a Culture of Data Reuse in the Life Sciences

After a decade of advocating for sound policies associated with rigor and reproducibility in research, data management, and data science as a profession, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) launched a new initiative designed to shift the culture of the biological and biomedical research community towards greater sharing and reuse of research data.

DataWorks! aims to create an ecosystem that: engages all stakeholders in the research process to identify barriers to and enablers of sharing and reusing data to develop practical and accessible solutions; creates an ever-expanding community of life sciences researchers with data management expertise to assist and support the research community; provides institutions of all sizes with tools to support and educate their researchers/users; and promotes and celebrates the value of reusing data through prize mechanisms with significant financial incentives.

The three primary goals for DataWorks! are:

1. To accelerate discovery in the life sciences;
2. To increase data accessibility and leverage it to maximize the impact of federally funded research; and
3. To support and ease investigator compliance with funder policies on data stewardship

Data are the lifeblood of any research program, and data curation is time consuming, expensive, and technically challenging. Expanded sharing and reuse of data that already exists, enabling it to be used multiple times and repurposed, cuts both the time and costs for new research endeavors, thus accelerating discovery while maximizing return on research investment. At the same time, solutions must ensure the research teams and core facilities generating data receive the proper credit and recognition when it is shared and reused. Adoption of open science principles may also increase opportunities for researchers at all career stages challenged by limited funding or institutional resources and enable them to expand their research networks and efforts in both topic area and scale.

Compliance with funder policies such as the [NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing](#) will be supported through tools identified through the data salons, information curated in an ever growing knowledgebase, and a Data Management Plan review service. Access to many of these resources will be free of charge; others will be subscription-based and delivered in partnership with shared research facilities and institutions' librarians.

DataWorks! is supported through an initial commitment by the FASEB Board of Directors of up to \$1.5 million dollars over 2021-2022, with program growth and long-term value to the community dependent upon partnerships and financial support from federal and private funders.

Market research confirms that FASEB is recognized for its ability to convene varied stakeholders to collaborate on solutions to challenging issues and to deliver high impact programs. FASEB DataWorks! provides an opportunity to combine our expertise in science policy and advocacy to deliver programming that will enhance the research and professional development of scientists in the biological and biomedical fields and beyond. The Federation is committed to continuing this collaborative approach by engaging all the groups that make up the research ecosystem as we explore and move down the path of shifting the culture of data sharing and reuse in the life sciences.

To that end, we welcome opportunities to present and discuss DataWorks! with member society Boards, Councils, Committees, and staff - please let us know if you'd like to schedule. Member societies with a particularly strong interest in this area are also invited to express their interest in joining the DataWorks! effort as an early adopter - please inquire to learn more about this opportunity.

We're excited by the potential benefits of DataWorks! The program will be a major enabler of FASEB's mission to advance health and well-being by promoting research and education in biological and biomedical sciences through collaborative advocacy and service to our societies and their members. We look forward to working with your FASEB volunteers and your staff on this important initiative for the biological and biomedical sciences.

Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Krause', written in a cursive style.

Frank Krause